

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NGA-01 /014 W

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R 161701Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 934

UNCLAS BERLIN 5848

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, GE

SUBJECT: LOAN TO NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

REF: BERLIN 5746-U, A-34-C

1. DURING MEETING WITH BETTIN OF MFA CULTURAL SECTION, JUNE 16, EMBASSY LEARNED THAT VON HUMBOLDT PORTRAIT WILL BE RESTORED BY GDR AT ITS EXPENSE AND MADE AVAILABLE FOR BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION BY END OF YEAR. BETTIN STATED THIS COULD BE CONSIDERED AS A "FIRM COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE GDR GOVERNMENT." BETTIN CONTINUED THAT THE CONDITIONS OF THE LOAN AGREEMENT WOULD "FOLLOW INTERNATIONAL RULES AND PRACTICE."

2. IF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS ARISE WITH REGARD TO RESTORATION OR LOAN OF THE VON HUMBOLDT PORTRAIT, LITTELL IS TO TAKE THEM UP WITH THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AS IN THE CASE OF THE INITIAL CONTACTS.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE RHINOCEROS HORN VASE, IN WHICH THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM IS INTERESTED, DR. BETTIN SAID THE MFA WAS FOLLOWING UP TO SEE WHERE THE COST ESTIMATE STOOD AND WOULD INFORM THE EMBASSY SOONEST.

4. DR. BETTIN ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXCHANGE OF MAJOR EXHIBITS BETWEEN THE DRESDEN MUSEUM AND THE NATIONAL GALLERY AS DISCUSSED WITH CARTER BROWN BY THE GDR CULTURAL ATTACHE SONJA ELM. HE COMMENTED HOWEVER, THAT SUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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AN EXCHANGE WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE 1977 OR 1978. GROVE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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